

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 SMS-01 HA-05
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08
FAA-00 CA-01 MCT-02 SCS-06 /114 W
-----093172 241120Z /14

R 240656Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8049
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USAFE RAMSTEIN GER
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USELMLO BEL
7350 ABG TEMPELHOF BERLIN GE//DO-DC//
TFC BOERFINK GE//MEK-DO//
HQ 17AF SEMBACH AB//GE-CC//

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 05528

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, MILI, GW, GE, BQG, CASC
SUBJECT: DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN EMBASSY
BERLIN AND US MISSION: AIR INCIDENTS

REF: USBERLIN 1819

1. EMBASSY HAS GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO REFTTEL.
WE CONCUR FULLY WITH USBER'S ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPLEXITY
OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN TERMS OF THE US GOVERNMENT'S
POSITION ON THE STATUS OF BERLIN AND THE AIR CORRIDORS
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REGIME AND THE NEED AT THE SAME TIME TO PROVIDE PROMPT,
EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE TO AMERICANS IN THE EVENT OF AIR
ACCIDENTS IN EAST BERLIN OR THE GDR.

2. GIVEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF US-GDR RELATIONS AND THE
PRESENCE OF THE EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN, WE THINK IT
ALMOST CERTAIN, IN THE EVENT OF AN AIR ACCIDENT, THAT

THE GDR WOULD SEEK TO DEAL WITH THE EMBASSY RATHER THAN TO HAVE THE MATTER DEALT WITH IN THE SOVIET-USBER/USMLM CHANNELS. IN SUCH AN INSTANCE, WE AGREE THAT THE EMBASSY'S INITIAL RESPONSE SHOULD BE THAT THE PROPER CHANNELS ARE THROUGH THE SOVIETS TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES IN WEST BERLIN AND THAT IN A HUMANITARIAN INTEREST THE GDR SHOULD MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO PUT THE MATTER IN THOSE PROPER CHANNELS. WE COULD ADD THAT, FOR THE PURPOSES OF FACILITATING THIS, WE WOULD INFORM OUR AUTHORITIES IN WEST BERLIN OF WHATEVER INFORMATION THE GDR HAS PROVIDED TO US SO THAT AMERICAN AUTHORITIES CAN PROCEED UNHINDERED TO THE SITE OF THE ACCIDENT TO RENDER ASSISTANCE, ETC. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THE EAST GERMANS AND/OR THE SOVIETS ARE VERY LIKELY TO RESIST THIS APPROACH AND TO INSIST THAT THE MATTER IS ONE FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN AND GDR AUTHORITIES TO HANDLE, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THE CRAFT IS DOWN AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT IS A MILITARY OR CIVILIAN PLANE CLEARED FOR CORRIDOR FLIGHTS OR THE - UNTIL NOW - RARE FLIGHT OF A U.S.-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT UNDER GDR CONTROL. WE ASSUME THE SOVIETS WOULD SUPPORT THE GDR IN THIS POSITION.

3. IF THIS DOES PROVE TO BE THE GDR/SOVIET POSITION, WE THINK WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ACT QUICKLY ON BEHALF OF USBER/USMLM IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT U.S. INTERESTS AND RENDER ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF AN ACCIDENT.
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IN PART, WE ASSUME IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE SOVIETS AND/OR THE EAST GERMANS COULD WELL REFUSE TO DEAL WITH USMLM OR MISSION PERSONNEL, AND WE, FOR SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS, WOULD FIND OURSELVES IN A VERY WEAK POSITION TO RESIST GDR/SOVIET DEMANDS THAT BUSINESS BE CONDUCTED BY THE EMBASSY. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSED CONTINGENCY PLANS NEED TO BE REVISED TO PROVIDE FOR THE "FOUR POWER UMBRELLA" FOR THE OPERATION SUGGESTED IN PARA 16 OF REFTTEL. WE THINK OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE SHOULD BE TO RENDER WHATEVER ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO THE VICTIMS OF AN ACCIDENT WITH THE MINIMUM POSSIBLE DELAY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME USING WHATEVER COVER IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OF PRINCIPLE ON THE STATUS OF BERLIN AND THE AIR CORRIDOR REGIME.

4. FINALLY, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS FOR THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE U.S. MISSION, THERE SHOULD BE COORDINATION AMONG THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES SO THAT OUR COMMON POSITIONS ON THE STATUS OF BERLIN AND THE AIR CORRIDOR REGIME WOULD BE MAINTAINED. BOLEN

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